

Field Triage Decision Scheme: The National Trauma Triage Protocol

2011 Georgia Office of EMS Updates

The National Trauma Triage Protocol



History of the Decision Scheme

The American College of Surgeons-Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) developed guidelines to designate "trauma centers" in 1976

- Set standards for personnel, facilities, and processes necessary for the best care of injured persons

Studies showed mortality reduction in regions with trauma centers

History of the Decision Scheme

National consensus conference in 1987 resulted in first ACS field triage protocol, the "Triage Decision Scheme"

The Decision Scheme serves as the basis for field triage of trauma patients in most EMS systems in the US



History of the Decision Scheme

The Decision Scheme has been revised four times (1990, 1993, 1999, and 2006)

Expert Panel assembled to make revisions

Expert Panel on Field Triage



The role of the Expert Panel is to:

- Periodically review the Decision Scheme
- Ensure criteria are consistent with existing evidence
- Ensure criteria are compatible with advances in technology
- Make necessary recommendations for revision

Why the Decision Scheme is Unique



Takes into account recent changes in assessment and care of the injured patient in the U.S.

Adds views of a broader range of disciplines and expertise into the process

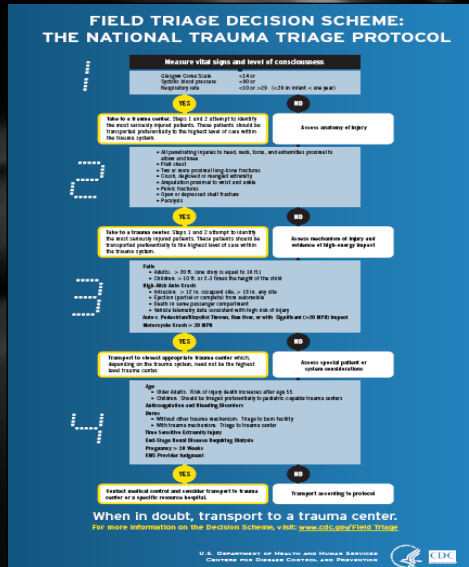
Purpose

This Decision Scheme is used to facilitate more effective triage and better match trauma patients' conditions with the medical resources best equipped to treat them

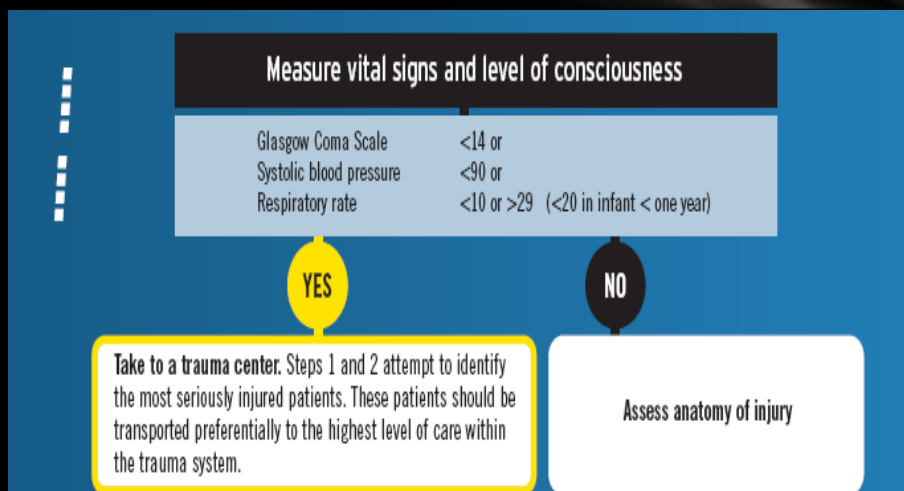


Field Triage Decision Scheme

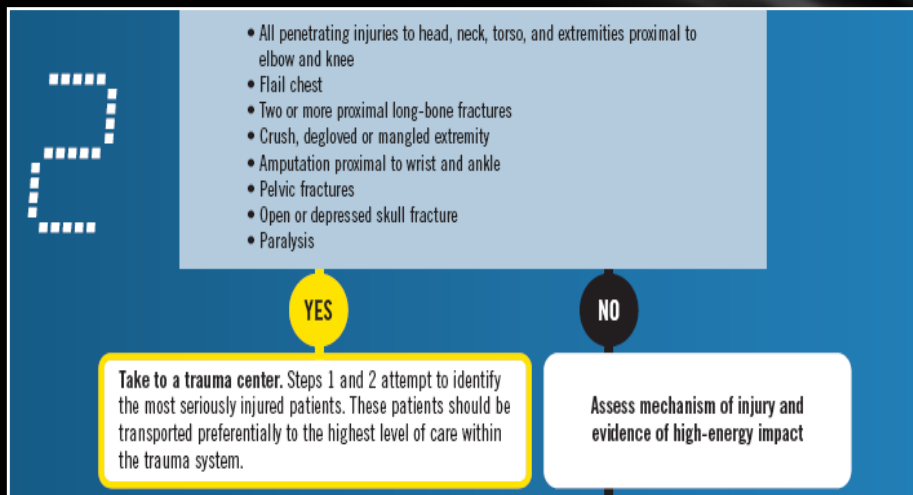
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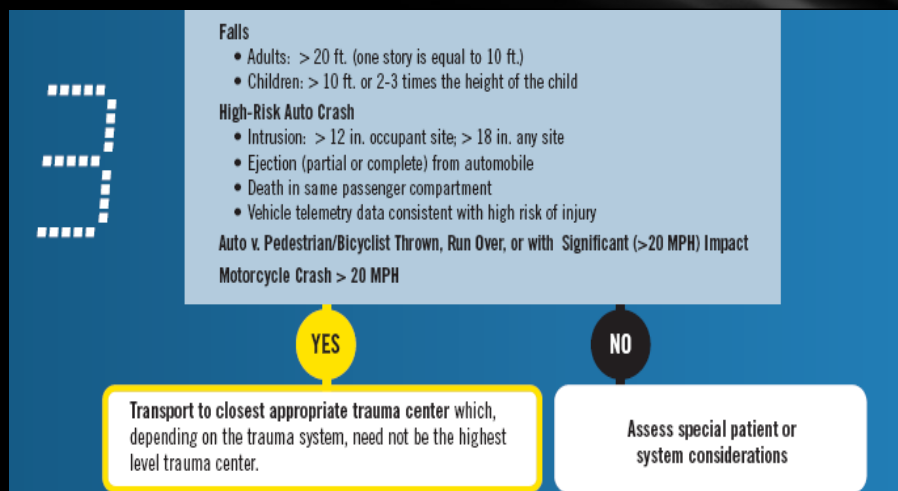
Step 1: Physiologic Criteria



Step 2: Anatomic Criteria



Step 3: Mechanism of Injury Criteria



Step 4: Special Considerations

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Age

- Older Adults: Risk of injury death increases after age 55
- Children: Should be triaged preferentially to pediatric-capable trauma centers

Anticoagulation and Bleeding Disorders

Burns

- Without other trauma mechanism: Triage to burn facility
- With trauma mechanism: Triage to trauma center

Time Sensitive Extremity Injury

End-Stage Renal Disease Requiring Dialysis

Pregnancy > 20 Weeks

EMS Provider Judgment

YES

Contact medical control and consider transport to trauma center or a specific resource hospital.

NO

Transport according to protocol

Summary



The right patient (to)

The right place (in)

The right time

For More Information



For more information on the Field
Triage Decision Scheme, please visit
www.cdc.gov